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13 July 1950

COAPS PRELIMINARY COMMENTS

on State's Staff Study of 1 May 1950  
on Production of National Intelligence  
and on Continuous Surveillance of current intelligence

1. The National Security Act of 1947, as amended, says that CIA disseminates intelligence using where appropriate existing agencies and facilities. That underlined clause in the Act (Section 102(d)(5)) modifies the dissemination functions, not the correlating and evaluating functions, from which it is separated by a comma.

2. The Act also says that the Agency and/or the Director of Central Intelligence have certain duties and responsibilities under the direction of the NSC. I should think that, under the existing legislation, the NSC cannot -- or at least should not! -- give those responsibilities to a Committee and make the DCI responsible to that Committee.

3. I know of nothing that says the DCI should have "sole responsibility for (only) the "final" national intelligence product."

4. I doubt if there has been more "confusion in CIA" than in other Washington agencies and departments. There would be less confusion in CIA if the Departments of State and Defense would reply in some manner to the CIA proposal, submitted a year ago, to implement the mandatory instructions in Paragraph of NSC50 about a single office of operations. This new proposal now submitted is based on Paragraph of NSC50, which gave the option to the DCI on his internal organization.

Proposed Directive

1. It is not known what would be the "adequate safeguards against bias" (Paragraph 1, page 1 of new Directive) in the "strictly political or strictly military intelligence estimates" which could be considered as "national intelligence" in those cases where such estimates are required.

2. It is noted that a "co-operation process" is proposed throughout this new Directive, whereas the Act refers to "coordination", i.e. some direction, rather than to purely voluntary "co-operation."

3. The new Intelligence Advisory Committee seems to resemble the old National Intelligence Authority which was discontinued by the National Security Act of 1947, ~~as~~ the latter also did not mention the old Intelligence Advisory Board set up in the original Presidential Letter establishing CIG.

4. The "designees" of the new Intelligence Advisory Committee (Commissioners) now revert to being "representatives" of their agencies at a new IAC headquarters, rather than being experienced personnel loaned to the DCI for his staff. (i.e., they replace the Standing Committee and COAPS?, or are they a third body of higher level "Consultants"?). The "representative" of the DCI is to be the Assistant Director of the new seventh office in CIA, the National Intelligence Group.

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5. The new IAC is to initiate requirements, i.e. give instructions to the DCI, for preparation of national estimates and studies; to pass upon the desirability and feasibility of what he himself may wish to initiate; to pass upon drafts of national estimates and studies before they are considered by the DCI; to have contact with the NSC Staff and other planning agencies through the DCI, rather than through their own Departmental heads(?); to have close liaison with — i.e. work for — the JIC. (It could be no closer than at present so far as the Pentagon goes as the members of the JIC and IAC are the same men.)
6. On Page 4 of the new Directive, the new IAC replaces the present Watch Committee and has the DCI transmit their conclusions (not his) to the key executives selected by the IAC; they instruct the DCI on what current intelligence should be prepared; and, instead of the NSC, on what products of common concern should be prepared; and they conduct all liaison with foreign intelligence organizations regarding production. (Does this change present Pentagon system by bringing in State in the Combined Estimates?)
7. The new IAC has its own headquarters, provided by CIA, to supervise the new 7th CIA office (National Intelligence Group) which works for them instead of for the DCI, but is situated with and financed by CIA. The DCI shall be the Production Manager for the IAC and their representatives and, in some instances, their messenger with the outside world.
8. The new National Estimates Staff receives instructions (in army language "requisitions") from the IAC, not from the DCI, and farms out sub-headings thereof to CIA and others for contributions, sets deadlines, etc.; "by synthesis", etc., prepares drafts of national estimates and studies; presents them to the IAC and is present at the IAC meetings that are called to consider the former; prepares "crisis estimates" for submission to the DCI and the IAC; reports on adequacy of collection; and works closely with — and controls? — the Current Intelligence Group.
9. The new Current Intelligence Group replaces (?) the Watch Committee and operates a Situation Room, in addition to those already in operation; is the 24-hour watch dog; prepares crisis(?) estimates from hot information; prepares current intelligence summaries (dailies and/or weeklies?) coordinated with the Agency supplying the information.
10. The Departmental Agencies provide intelligence to the National Estimates Staff when their projects are initiated by the IAC, not to DCI or CIA; make oral presentations thereon; provide operational and other current information to the Current Intelligence Staff; supply for review NSC and IAC studies that may be of national intelligence caliber; nominate personnel for duty with the National Intelligence Group.
11. CIA shall contribute to the National Estimates Staff and Current Intelligence Staff the way the other agencies do; shall restrict its

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production to services of common concern and other duties as directed by IEC; shall issue studies only after reviewed by the National Estimates Staff and IAC.

DCI and Agency Directors have collective responsibility and DCI's duties are to implement this Directive. DCI's statutory responsibilities are limited to approval of the final drafts of estimates when recommended by the IAC and to dissemination thereof.



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cc: Director  
AD/ORE (2)  
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